

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

On August 21, 2003, a restriction requirement was mailed to Applicants in their patent application serial No. 10/136,357 (hereinafter "the parent application"). In response to the restriction requirement, Applicants have elected Group II, which includes claims 19-26, for further examination in the parent application.

Applicants also have decided to file a Divisional Application to further request the examination of their unelected Group I, which includes claims 1-18. This preliminary amendment is submitted to formally cancel claims 19-26 and to formally request for further examination of claims 1-18. No new matter has been introduced.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for examination, and early action in accordance thereof is requested. In the event there is any reason why the application cannot be allowed in this current condition, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned at the number listed below to resolve any problems by Interview or Examiner's Amendment.

No fee is believed to be due for this amendment. Should any fee be required, please charge the same to deposit account number 22-0261 and notify the applicants' attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fei-Fei Chao". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Fei" and last name "Chao" clearly legible.

Fei-Fei Chao, Ph.D.
Reg. No. 43,538

Date: September 26, 2003

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